Vol. VIII. Numb. 89

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Disappointment of the Faction's Hopes, by the Unanimity of the Queen and Parliament, and the Commons giving Money so readily to carry on the War. Dr. Sacheverell's *Sermon a seditious Attack upon the Authority of Queen and Parliament, deserves the same Censure as Dr.* Manwaring's *had from the Commons in* 1628, *and he should be prosecuted for it according to the Address of the Lords in* 1705. *A Letter from* Rygate, *concerning Abuses committed there in Favour of Forestallers and Regraters, by a vile Justice of Peace. Farther Remarks on the Decay of our Silk-Trade, by long and general Mournings; and the Consequence of it humbly submitted to the Consideration of her Majesty and the Parliament.*

From Saturday, December 3. to Wednesday, December 7. 1709.

Obs. WHAT News from the Parliament, *Roger?* You have told me nothing of their Proceedings a long while.

Country-m. They go on bravely, Master, and to the great Mortification of the Faction. There's a very good Harmony betwixt them; they go on unanimously in giving Money to reduce the Great Patron of Tyranny, Persecution, and Passive-Obedience to Reason; so that our *Sacheverells*, *Higgins's*, *Leseys*, and *Staveys*, the modern *Guy Faux's*, have sprung their Mines of Powder and Brimstone in vain, and instead of hurting others, they have only done Mischief to themselves and their Party; for every Body sees now, that their Measures are calculated to bring in a Popish Prince and a *French* Government.

Obs. 'Tis but just, *Roger*, that they who dig a Pit for others, should fall into it themselves. The Government will not always bear with their Insults, and suffer the Constitution to be attack'd, made cheap and contemptible by the fiery Harangues of a Parcel of hot-headed Jacobites, and real false Brethren, who have taken the Oaths to the Government, on purpose to undermine it, and assault her Majesty's Administration, on Pretence of Zeal for the Monarchy and the Church. I remember Dr. *Manwaring*, in the Reign of King *Charles* the Ist, was call'd to an Account by the Parliament, and oblig'd to recant on his Knees, what he had preach'd on Pretence of Zeal for the Monarchy, but really to subvert the Constitution and Power of Parliaments, alledging, according to the high-flying Doctrine of that Time, 'That the 'King is not bound to observe the Laws of the 'Realm concerning the Subjects Rights and Li'berties, but that his Royal Will and Command 'in imposing Loans and Taxes, without com'mon Consent in Parliament, doth oblige the Sub'jects Consciences, on Pain of Damnation, *&c.* for which the Doctor was charg'd at the Bar of the House of Commons, '1. With labouring to 'infuse into the Conscience of his Majesty, the 'Perswasion of a Power not bounding it self with 'Laws, which King *James*, of famous Memory, 'calls, in his Speech to the Parliament, *Tyranny*, 'yea, *Tyranny accompany'd with Perjury.* 2. That he 'endeavour'd to perswade the Conscience of the 'Subjects, that they are bound to obey Commands 'illegal; yea, he damns them for not obeying them. '3. He robs the Subjects of the Propriety of their 'Goods. 4. He brands them that will not lose 'their Propriety with most scandalous Speeches, 'and odious Titles, to make them both hateful to 'Prince and People, so to let a Division betwixt 'the Head and the Members, and between the 'Members themselves. 5. To the same End, not 'much unlike to *Faux* and his Fellows, he seeks 'to blow up Parliaments and Parliamentary Power.

Country-m. In my Opinion, Master, that Charge fits Dr. *Sacheverell*, as well as if it had been drawn up on Purpose for him. This 5th of *November* Sermon has directly the same Tendency, and was dictated by the same Spirit of Tyranny, Malice, and Persecution. What villanous Names does he bestow on all those who are for resisting tyrannical Powers? And what Divisions has he not in that, and others of his Sermons, endeavour'd to sow between the Head and Members, and between the Members themselves? And how seditiously has he inculcated the Danger of the Church, contrary to the express Declaration of her Majesty and the Parliament? which makes Good what one said of the Faction,

Passive-Obedience when the Court does ease them,
But Swords and Jack-boots when it dares displease them.

One would wonder, Master, at the Impudence of the Faction, to insist thus on the Danger of the Church, when her Majesty, in her most gracious Speech to the Parliament in 1705, 'charges those 'with Malice, that had suggested in Print the 'Church to be in Danger; and that they who go 'about to insinuate Things of this Nature, were 'her own and the Kingdom's Enemies, and *could 'only mean to cover Designs which they dare not pub'lickly own*, by endeavouring to distract us with un'reasonable and groundless Trusts and Jealousies. Considering also that the Lords, in their Address to her Majesty on that Occasion, 'assur'd her Ma'jesty that they would ever shew the utmost Dete'station of those *ungrateful and wicked Men*, who 'labour to dishonour her Majesty's Reign, and di'stract her Subjects with unreasonable and ground'less Jealousies of Dangers to the Church; and in 'the mean Time humbly advis'd and besought her 'Majesty to require and command her Officers and 'Ministers to whom that Part belongs, that they 'prosecute and punish them with the utmost Ri'gor of Law, as the most spiteful and dangerous 'Enemies to the Church and State.

Obs. Dr. *Sacheverell* may read his Sin, and the Punishment which it deserves, in her Majesty's Speech and that Address, *Roger.* We are not to doubt but there will be Care taken of the Doctor in due Time, since 'tis Impudence and Sedition to the highest Degree for him to inculcate those Dangers of the Church, contrary to the Declaration of Queen, Lords, and Commons, and at the same Time to damn *Resistance of Princes, on any Pretence whatever*, contrary to Sess. 2. Cap. 2. of *William* and *Mary*, which declares the Causes not only why the Nation resisted, but depos'd King *James*, one of which was, *for levying Money to the Use of the Crown, by Pretence of Prerogative, for other Time, and in other Manner, than the same was granted by Parliament:* And since he likewise damns that Clause in the same Act, which impowers us to dethrone any Sovereign that shall turn Papist, or marry a Papist, which is in plain Terms to blow up our Constitution by the Fire which he fetches from the Bottomless Pit; and, as her Majesty excellently expresses

profeſs it, he and his Faction do by theſe Methods *cover ſuch Deſigns, as they dare not publickly own.* We have no Reaſon to doubt, but the Miniſtry will find a Time to puniſh this Incendiary according to the Addreſs of the Lords, and that the Parliament will aſſert their own Authority againſt the Attacks of ſuch pernicious Libellers. But enough of this at preſent, *Roger.*

Country-m. Here's a Letter of the 3d Inſtant, Maſter, from an honeſt Gentleman at *Rygate* in *Surry*, taking Notice 'of the Good your *Obſervator* has 'done in thoſe Parts, eſpecially as to Corn; it a'nimated many of the Juſtices to act their Part 'nobly, and the Country People bought Num'bers of 'em to ſhew their Neighbours; upon 'which, ſeveral Houſe-keepers went with a Con'ſtable to complain to the Juſtices, that, contrary 'to Law, the Corn was ſold in Inns, the Market-'Bell ſtopt from ringing; that the Regraters and 'Foreſtallers bought it on the Road, ſold it again 'the ſame Day, and got 30 or 40 *s.* in a Parcel, 'which rais'd the Price; ſo that the Conſtable 'made Oath he ſaw ſeveral poor Houſe-keepers a 'crying, becauſe thoſe Foreſtallers had bought it 'out of their Hands, and they could get none for 'their Families; to which one of the Juſtices re'ply'd, there was no Law to puniſh it, but at a 'Court-Leet, which would not be in a Year's 'Time; and if that would not do, it ſhould be 'done at *Court-Never:* The Houſe-keepers deſir'd 'him to look to the Statutes mention'd in the *Ob'ſervator*; upon which, he pull'd it out of one of 'the Mens Hands, and burnt it. When the Pro'clamation came down, which mention'd the ſame 'Statutes, the People got Muſicians to play for 'Joy, and the good Juſtices went chearfully to put 'the Laws in Execution, made the Country-men 'bring their Corn from the Inns to the Market, or'der'd the Bell to be rung, and ſaid by thoſe miſchie'vous Practices the *French* had been ſupply'd with 'Corn and Wooll from *Suſſex*, and that to put a 'Stop to theſe Courſes, would be a Means to ruin 'the *French*; ſo that the Corn fell conſiderably in 'the Markets. But laſt Tueſday that wicked Ju'ſtice acted againſt what the good Juſtices had 'done, ſtopt the Bell from ringing, got the Order 'affix'd by three Juſtices to be tore down from the 'Market-Poſt, and told the Country-men they 'might ſell Corn again in their Inns.

Clf. Such a Juſtice as that, *Roger*, ought not only to be put out of Commiſſion, but to be puniſh'd according to the the utmoſt Severity of the Law; the People ſhould ſign a Petition againſt him, and ſend it to the Lord High Chancellor, or their Repreſentatives in Parliament, that he may be made an Example. He's certainly one of *Sacheverell's* Tribe, and perhaps is one of thoſe who has enroll'd their Lives and Fortunes to preſerve the Church from his imaginary Danger.

Country-m. 'Tis probable enough, Maſter; for he's as great an Enemy to the Societies of Reformation, as the Doctor himſelf; and the Reaſon is, he keeps Company with a Juſtice of Peace's Widow, for which her Son, who is *Roger* my Name-ſake, drubb'd him with an Oaken Towel when he found him one Day in her Chamber, becauſe he would not take the Warning he had formerly given him not to debauch his Mother.

Clf. I am afraid we have too many ſuch Juſtices, *Roger*; but I hope an Enquiry will be made after them in Time. The People ſhould put him and his Miſtreſs into the *Spiritual Court*, where the Gentlemen of *Doctors-Commons* will make them either do Penance, or Commute.

Country-m. We muſt talk a little more about the Condition of the Weavers, and others concern'd in the Silk-Trade, Maſter, occaſion'd by long and general Mournings. You computed in your laſt, that there was 6175 *l. per Ann.* loſt in Workmanſhip at *Canterbury* alone by the Decay of that Trade: But you were certainly much too low; for by the Gentlemens Account, that inſtead of 700 *l. per* Week paid to Work-men there, they don't now pay above 50 *l.* there's 33800 *l. per Ann.* loſt in Workmanſhip there. This is plain, Maſter, if you multiply 650 *l.* which is the Weekly Loſs, by 52, the Number of Weeks in a Year.

Clf. Your Computation is juſt, *Roger*; but you know I reckon'd by the Medium of 9 *l.* 10 *s. per Ann.* for 650 Men, which comes juſt to my Sum, according to the Calculation of Mr. *King*, *Lancaſter*-Herald, of the Profits of Labours by Artizans and Handicrafts-men *per Ann.* one with another, which I took to be the moſt eaſie Way, becauſe I would not aggravate; but your Computation is true, according to the Information of thoſe Maſter Work-men, which is enough to allarm us, and to recommend the Conſideration of that Matter to our Legiſlature, eſpecially if what thoſe Gentlemen ſay farther, be true, that there are 200000 Men, Women, and Children employ'd one Way or other in the Silk-Trade within the Bills of Mortality; but admitting only half the Number, and yet they ſay the Silk-Throwſters alone employ very near that Quantity of People, it deſerves a very ſerious Regard, not only for the Sake of the Poor, who by the Decay of that Trade, are reduc'd to Beggary, but for the Sake of the Crown, and the *Turky* and *Italian* Merchants, who are ſaid to have large Quantities of raw Silk by them, that they cannot diſpoſe of, and by Conſequence are not in a Condition to export our Woollen Manufacture in Returns for that Silk, as formerly, which may give a fatal Blow to our great Staple, and not only loſe our Trade, but our Reputation at the *Ottoman* Court, while at the ſame Time the *French* King, who is now Maſter of the fine *Spaniſh* Wooll, uſes his utmoſt Endeavours to worm us out of our *Turky* Trade, by ſetting up that Manufacture in his Country, and under-ſelling us, which he has too great an Opportunity to do, by lying ſo much nearer *Conſtantinople*, than we. Therefore I hope this Matter will be taken Care of, *Roger*, becauſe it will ſink the Revenue of our Crown, and raiſe that of our mortal Enemy. On this Occaſion I cannot but take Notice of what Mr. *Nieuwenhoff* informs us, in his *Account of an Embaſſy from the* Eaſt India *Company of the united Netherlands, to the Emperor of* China, pag. 184. *viz.* 'That the *Chineſe* 'finding their Trade ruin'd by a Law for Mourn'ing three Years upon the Death of an Emperor 'or Empreſs, the Emperor of *China* reduc'd thoſe 'publick Mourning to a Month, which prov'd an 'effectual Remedy. All which we muſt ſubmit, *Roger*, to the Wiſdom of her Majeſty and the Parliament, and pray God to direct them in this, and all other Affairs.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

☞ Bickerſtaff's Æſop, or the Humours of the Times Digeſted into Fables. Humbly Dedicated to thoſe flouriſhing Sitters, the two Univerſities of Great Britain. Sold by B. Bragge, at the Raven in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price one Shilling.

☞ The true Progreſs of the Arms of the high Allies, from their ſitting down before Liſle, to the Siege of Mons; wherein is a fuller View of the Sieges of Liſle and Tournay, the Battels of Audenarde, Wynendale, from General Wade's own Memoirs, and the glorious Victory at Blaguies, near Mons, than has been hitherto made publick. To which is prefix'd, a Plan of the Country where the Sieges were, and the Battels fought; with a general Liſt of the killed and wounded at thoſe Battels and Sieges. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1 *s.*

☞ A true Account of the late Scotch Inva[ſion], as it was open'd by my Lord Haverſham in the Houſe of Lords on Friday the 25th of February, 1708. with ſome Obſervations that were made in the H--ſe of C-----ns, and true Copies of authentick Papers. In a Letter from a Gentleman in South Britain, to his Friend in North Britain. Price [illegible] Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

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